



Memorandum

#14-016

TO: WIC Regional Directors
WIC Local Agency Directors

FROM: Linda Brumble, Unit Manager
Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit
Nutrition Services Section

DATE: February 19, 2014

SUBJECT: Risk Criteria Clarification Regarding E-Cigarettes

Due to increasing popularity of e-cigarettes, the State Agency has received numerous questions about the proper assignment of risk codes *371, Maternal Smoking* and *904, Environmental Tobacco Smoke Exposure*.

At this time the use of e-cigarettes is not a risk criterion, nor would the use in the home be considered environmental tobacco smoke exposure. The FDA is currently in the process of evaluating the safety of e-cigarettes. Therefore, it is not possible to assess for risk since there is no reliable information about quantities or brands of e-cigarettes that are considered to be unsafe. Due to the uncertainty of adverse health effects, we highly discourage the use of e-cigarettes in WIC clinics, as well as inside waiting rooms that are co-located with WIC facilities.

Although no specific risk criterion can be assigned for this behavior, it is certainly an issue that should be addressed through nutrition education. It would be prudent to inform the participant of the FDA information posted at <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm172906.htm>.

Below is a brief excerpt from the FDA's website provided by the USDA:

As the safety and efficacy of e-cigarettes have not been fully studied, consumers of e-cigarette products currently have no way of knowing:

- Whether e-cigarettes are safe for their intended use,
- How much nicotine or other potentially harmful chemicals are being inhaled during use, or
- If there are any benefits associated with using these products.

Additionally, it is not known if e-cigarettes may lead young people to try other tobacco products, including conventional cigarettes, which are known to cause disease and lead to premature death.

Here is an additional link with more information from the FDA:

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm225210.htm>

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Tiffany Brown, WCS Program Coordinator, at Tiffany.Brown@dshs.state.tx.us or 512-341-4587.